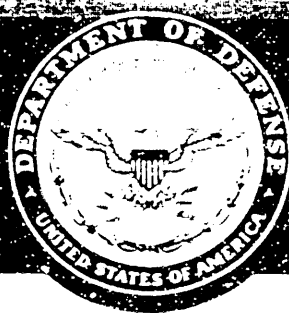


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ACTIONS OF MILITARY SERVICES IN CUBAN CRISIS OUTLINED

Actions of the U.S. Military Services during the Cuban crisis were outlined today by the Department of Defense.

Summaries of actions by the Army, the Navy and Marine Corps, and the Air Force follow:

U. S. ARMY

U. S. Army Forces, Atlantic, was created on October 16, 1962, when Department of the Army notified the U. S. Continental Army Commander, General Herbert B. Powell, that he was designated as Army component commander to assist CINCPACFLT in contingency planning. As Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Army Forces, Atlantic, (CINCPACFLT), General Powell became responsible for all Army forces under Admiral Robert L. Dennison, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic.

CINCPACFLT's first task was to enlarge plans for Army participation in CINCPACFLT's operations and to be prepared to implement whatever actions were required. To his headquarters at Fort Monroe, Virginia, General Powell added 215 officers to assist in the planning task. Most in the USARPLANT part of the headquarters worked on a 24-hour basis to accomplish these objectives.

Another concurrent task was to establish USARPLANT Forward, co-located with AFLANT advance headquarters at Homestead Air Force Base, under Major General George T. Duncan, USA.

USARPLANT forward represented General Powell on the ground and coordinated all Army activities in the base areas in the southeastern United States. This small staff was to be the nucleus on which CINCPACFLT would expand his operating headquarters as operational plans were put into effect.

Lieutenant General Hamilton M. Hoyne, Commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, was the designated Joint Task Force Commander under CINCPACFLT for control of possible future joint operations. In this capacity he and his staff were involved in greatly expanded planning and supervisory missions.

Major elements of STRAC (Strategic Army Corps) were withdrawn from STRICOM and designated for use as USARPLANT forces -- altogether more than 100,000 officers and men.

NOPE

All elements were put in an advanced alert status during the early days of the Cuban crisis in mid-October. Forces included Infantry, Armored and Airborne Divisions, and Logistical troops.

The 1st Armored Division began moving from Fort Hood, Texas, to Fort Stewart, Georgia, on October 21. The move required 3,000 flat cars, 200 other equipment cars, and 200 passenger cars carrying some 5,000 troops. A major segment of the personnel of the Division moved by air to Georgia. While the remainder of the personnel moved with the Division equipment by rail.

All units began a series of intensive training exercises to maintain their combat readiness. Airborne troops participated in exercises involving battle group air movements and parachute drops while the 1st Armored Division engaged in amphibious exercises on the Florida beaches.

The 3d Logistical Command, commanded by Brigadier General Horace Davison, was expanded into a new organization, the Peninsula Base Command, with headquarters at Opalooka Air Force Base, Florida. The mission of this command was to provide logistical and administrative support to all Army troops in the Florida area. The Peninsula Base Command was composed of medical, engineer, ordnance, transportation, boat, and terminal service units, with a strength of more than 10,000.

Army Air Defense battalions, equipped with HAWK and Nike-Zeuthen missiles, were moved to Florida by rail and air from points as far away as Texas and Northwestern United States. After occupying tactical positions in Florida, these units went on around-the-clock alert under the operational control of NORAD.

Also, plans were perfected for the call-up of high-priority Army National Guard and Army Reserve units which might have been needed in the event assault operations were initiated. Every possible readiness action, short of informing units and individuals, was taken by Army and Corps Headquarters in the United States.

In preparation for possible operational missions throughout the Cuban crisis, the Army pre-positioned combat forces, established a logistical base in Florida, and intensified training of all alerted forces.

U. S. NAVY AND U. S. MARINE CORPS

On October 1, 1962 forces of Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet, were engaged in normal training and upkeep throughout the Western Atlantic and Caribbean areas. Vice Admiral John M. Taylor, USN, Commander, Second Fleet, embarked in USS NEWPORT (CAG-1), was at sea off Nova Scotia. Anti-airborne carriers WAST (CVA-13), BASH (CVA-1), and LANT OMAHA (CVA-38) were in the Boston Newport area. INTREPID (CVA-11) was at sea off New York and BATTLESTAR (CVA-15) was in Norfolk. Cruisers and destroyers were engaged in local operations stretching from Newport to Guantanamo.

In the Caribbean, the 2 fleet missile cruiser USS SCIMITAR (CAG-2), six destroyers and one missile cruiser were in Guantanamo. USS BATTLESTAR (CVA-15) and seven destroyers were in support, Florida.

Attack aircraft carriers were located as follows: USS ENTERPRISE was enroute to Norfolk, Virginia, from the Mediterranean; USS INDEPENDENCE and USS SARATOGA were in the Norfolk area.

Destroyers and submarines were in Key West. Normal air patrols and training were being carried out in Key West, Roosevelt Roads (Puerto Rico) and Guantanamo.

A regularly scheduled exchange of the Marine Battalion Landing Team in the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was in progress.

The Atlantic Fleet Operations schedule for the period October 15-26 were as follows:

PHIBTRALEX 1-62 (Amphibious Training Landing Exercise). Amphibious landing exercises and training afloat and ashore in the Vieques area, scheduled for August 27 - November 2, was still in progress, involving Amphibious Squadron 6 with the 2d Battalion of the 2d Marines embarked.

UNITAS III. Third annual ASW training exercise conducted by Commander South Atlantic Forces, near Admiral J. A. Tyree, Jr., USN, with several South American countries during the period August 17 - December 10.

PHIBTRALEX 61 (Amphibious Brigade Landing Exercise). An exercise designed to train and exercise naval forces to conduct an amphibious assault and associated naval operations, from Onslow Beach, North Carolina, to Virgin Island in the Caribbean, October 15-30. Principal forces involved were as follows:

USS INDEPENDENCE (CVA-62)

USS RANOLPH (CVS-15)

USS CHINAWA (LPH-3)

USS THETIS BAY (LPH-6)

15 destroyers

14 amphibious ships

1 submarine

4 mobile support ships

1 Marine Expeditionary Brigade (1 Regimental Landing Team,
1 Composite Marine Aircraft Group,
plus supporting units)

SWEEP CLEAN III. Joint Canadian and U. S. minesweeping exercise off Nova Scotia.

Beginning October 19, all aircraft and squadrons not required for air defense, reconnaissance and ASW surveillance were relocated because of overcrowding at Florida bases.

More than 40 ships got underway commencing on October 15 to carry out the scheduled PHIBTRALEX 61 (Amphibious Brigade Landing Exercise). Surveillance of the shipping lanes was being carried out throughout the Caribbean area. The influx of an average of 30 ships per month, Soviet and Soviet-chartered, loaded with military equipment and Soviet personnel, made it mandatory that surveillance flights be made over suspected missile installation sites in Cuba. Navy and Marine Corps air units were ordered into Southern Florida and Caribbean air stations to bolster air defense capability. All air and surface units of the Atlantic Fleet were placed in an increased readiness state and many were ordered to sea. Marine air and ground units were alerted for possible developments.

The orders to increase the aerial surveillance of Cuba to confirm the presence of missile sites were first filled by F8U Crusader photographic planes flown by pilots of Navy Light Photographic Squadron 62 and Marine Corps Composite Reconnaissance Squadron Two, operating from bases in Florida. More than 80 sorties composed of from two to 10 aircraft totalled more than 100 hours of photographic surveillance.

Maritime surveillance was performed by P3V Neptunes, F4M Marlins, S2F Trackers, WV Warning Stars, and helicopters flying a total of more than 20,000 hours during the crisis. Approximately one-half of this total was flown by carrier-based aircraft (S2Fs and helicopters).

As aerial photo reconnaissance confirmed that Soviet offensive missile installations were in place and under construction in Cuba, the full mobile capabilities of the Navy-Marine Corps team were brought into play. Troops were loaded swiftly and units moved to attain a posture which would make possible any action ordered with a minimum reaction time.

On Sunday afternoon, October 21, President Kennedy received a final definitive report that MREMs and IRBM missile facilities were being installed, and that IL-28 1,000-mile range bombers were being assembled in Cuba.

October 22

The evacuation of dependents from Guantanamo was carried out. 390 were brought to Norfolk by air and approximately 2,500 were loaded aboard the USNS UPSHUR, USS DUXBURY BAY, USS HWADES and USS DESOTO COUNTY, scheduled to arrive in Norfolk Thursday, October 25.

The ready Marine Battalion Landing Team embarked in ships of PHIBRON 8 was landed in Guantanamo.

A Marine Force was airlifted from California to Guantanamo Bay by MACS and other Marines moved by surface craft.

The Marine Infantry Battalion from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, arrived in Guantanamo by air.

Battalion Landing Teams from Camp Lejeune were ordered to load-out in available amphibious lift of PHIBRONs 6 and 7 at Norfolk, Virginia, and Morehead City, North Carolina, to proceed to sea as soon as ready.

President Kennedy spoke to the nation on television and radio that evening.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara later announced that Admiral George W. Anderson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, had been designated Quarantine Representative for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and that Admiral Robert L. Dennison, Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic, would be responsible for carrying out duties assigned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The force prepared to implement the quarantine was commanded by Vice Admiral Alfred G. Ward, USN, Commander Second Fleet, who was in the cruiser NEWPORT NEWS, having relieved Vice Admiral Taylor on October 21, as previously scheduled.

Supporting his flagship was the cruiser CANBERRA, the support carrier ESSEX, several squadrons of destroyers, and the requisite oilers, ammunition ships, etc. Admiral Ward's force had the designation of Task Force 136.

Task Force 135, commanded by Rear Admiral John T. Hayward, Commander Carrier Division Two, stood by ready to come to the defense of Guantanamo if needed. His flagship was the carrier ENTERPRISE, with more than 100 Navy and Marine aircraft on board. Aircraft types included F8U, F4H, A4D, A3J and AD-6.

Additional support was available in the carrier INDEPENDENCE and supporting ships of Carrier Division Six, commanded by Rear Admiral Robert J. Stroh. The INDEPENDENCE also carried over 100 aircraft including F8Us, F3Hs and WF2s.

All Atlantic Fleet mobile logistic forces were loaded and ordered to sea in support of fleet forces deployed.

Protection of shipping was undertaken in Florida Straits, Windward Passage and Yucatan Channel by naval patrol aircraft and destroyers.

October 23

Organization of American States approved United States plan of action, including participation in quarantine actions where feasible, in the establishment of a quarantine and in actions to require that Soviet offensive weapons be withdrawn from Cuba.

UNITAS III was cancelled and the U. S. Navy forces were ordered to the Atlantic to carry out tasks to be assigned.

President Kennedy issued the Quarantine Proclamation and set effective time as 10 A.M. (EDT), Wednesday, October 24, 1962.

Headquarters, FLEET-6 arrived at Guantanamo Bay.

October 24

At 10 A.M. (EDT), the Quarantine of Cuba was established and carried out by the air and surface units of the United States Atlantic Fleet.

No significant events during first 24 hours. The aerial photographic reconnaissance flights continued.

Effective October 24, the air and surface units of the quarantine forces began to intensify their search for Cuba-bound merchant shipping that might carry prohibited material. This material included surface-to-surface missiles, bomber aircraft, bombs, air-to-surface rockets and guided missiles, warheads for any of the above weapons, mechanical or electronic equipment to support or operate those items, and any other classes of material designated by the Secretary of Defense.

in tomorrow's newspapers. I'm sure you will see photographs of some of the submarines that came to the surface after the persistent surveillance of United States ships and United States aircraft."

Although not recruited by the President for the Cuban crisis, the civilian-sailors of the Naval Air Reserve provided an extraordinary volunteer back-up force for the fleet, both in logistic support and in actual sea surveillance along the eastern seaboard and Gulf of Mexico.

Inspired by the President's message of October 22, Reservists from Naval Air activities at South Weymouth, Massachusetts; New York; Lakehurst, New Jersey; Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D.C.; Norfolk, Virginia; Jacksonville, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Glenview, Illinois, have manned their "Neptune" patrol bombers, Grumman "Trackers" and Douglas transports for these voluntary operations. In so doing, they have logged more than 775 hours in logistic flights and some 350 hours of surveillance. More than 621,000 pounds of valuable cargo, and more than 1,101 passengers have been transported more than 117,500 miles.

These voluntary operations by the Naval Air Reservists included their sighting and reporting of 191 different foreign surface and underwater craft, including merchant ships, Russian trawlers and fishing factories, Russian merchant ships, a Russian electronic ship, and an "unfriendly" submarine.

Added to the airborne support, some 50 Weekend Warriors from across the land volunteered for special assignments in Atlantic Fleet Operational Control Centers where they served in an active duty training status perfecting their skills as Operational Control Watch Officers.

Under the command of Rear Admiral John A. Tyree, USN, CINCLANT established the Inter-American Combined Quarantine Force. This force included 2 Argentine destroyers, the ARA-POSADES and the ARA-ESPORA; 2 patrol frigates from the Dominican Republic, GREGORIA LUPERON F-113 and CARITAT PEIFFER CANCANA F-104; and 2 destroyers from Venezuela, the JULIA and the LUENA ESPANA. Arrangements for these combined operations were made in conformity with the further resolution adopted on November 5 by the Council of the Organization of American States acting provisionally as arranged in consultation.

President Kennedy announced during his press conference November 20 that the agreement by the Soviet Russians to remove the IL-28s from Cuba had enabled the United States to withdraw the quarantine imposed on October 24, 1962.

About 6:45 P.M. (EST), November 20, the Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet was directed to discontinue operations and to return units to normal operations.

The Atlantic Fleet Commander also directed Commander Antishubmarine Force, Atlantic Fleet, Vice Admiral E. B. Taylor, USN, to be prepared to locate and photograph Soviet ships leaving Cuban ports with IL-28 aircraft aboard. The requirement is expected to last for about 30 days in accordance with information

provided by the Soviet Union that the aircraft would be out of Cuba within 30 days.

At the same time, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic, Admiral Robert L. Dennison, directed Fleet Admiral John A. Tyree, USN, to discontinue quarantine operations of the inter-American Combined Quarantine Force and to make recommendations for training exercises and on port visits for the Argentine, Venezuelan and Dominican Republic forces involved.

As the orders went out to dissolve the quarantine forces, more than 60 ships of the mighty force which had clearly demonstrated its capability to respond quickly to their country's need had an opportunity to be home for Thanksgiving. Other ships followed, many arriving during the following weekend.

Admiral Anderson pointed out that "the entire operation has been a magnificent testimonial not only to the senior leaders of our Government, but also to those commanders and commanding officers at lower levels who were so quickly able to move their troops -- large numbers of troops -- their ships -- many ships -- and their aircraft of many types in position to carry out lengthy, tedious and often very sensitive operations with a high degree of leadership, professional competence, courage and diplomatic skill."

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U. S. AIR FORCE

Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Buckert and General Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, expressed their personal appreciation today to the thousands of Air Force men and women who personally contributed to the massive Air Force operations during the month-long Cuban crisis.

"General LeMay and I feel that the American people will wish to know of the dedicated efforts of the thousands of Air Force men and women who, under maximum security wraps, have quietly gone about their tremendously increased professional duties for this unique operation during the past month," Secretary Buckert said.

The following summarizes Air Force operations during the Cuban crisis:

Reconnaissance

An intensification of shipping into Cuba during August brought increased effort in U.S. intelligence activities. Aerial reconnaissance which had obtained the first conclusive evidence of the Soviet missile build-up on October 1, culminated in final photo confirmation on October 20 of MRTEMs in Cuba, as announced by the Department of Defense on October 22.

When the President announced the quarantine of Cuba on October 22, Strategic Air Command B-52's on airborne alert training flights and B-47's on training flights joined with the Navy to maintain a watch on the 2,000 ships which were in the Atlantic Ocean area. SAC bombers made hundreds of visual and photographic sightings and relayed this information and several thousand feet of aerial film to CINCLANT.

Movements

Movements of Air Force units began immediately after spotting of MTBEMs on Cuba.

By October 20, Tactical Air Command had moved thousands of men, thousands of tons of equipment, and tactical fighter, reconnaissance, and troop carrier aircraft into the southeastern United States, mainly to Florida bases. This tactical force was operational as soon as the movements were completed.

Also on the weekend before the Presidential quarantine announcement the Strategic Air Command began dispersing aircraft. SAC also moved several bombers and tankers from Florida bases to other U.S. bases to make room for tactical aircraft.

Air Defense Command moved fighter interceptors and men into the Southeast to supplement its air defense forces in that area. All these moves were completed before the October 22 quarantine announcement.

Around 125 tons of air evacuation hospital equipment and 1,479 blood units were flown to Florida and pre-positioned.

Air Defense

During the four-weeks of maximum crisis, Air Force fighter interceptors in the Florida area flew more than 2,000 individual fighter patrols, maintaining a 24-hour orbiting of several strategic points in the air off Florida.

The maximum force of NORAD fighter interceptors and anti-aircraft missiles was on 5 to 15-minute alert throughout the four weeks of maximum crisis.

Airborne and Ground Alert For Bombers

On October 22, Strategic Air Command began a massive airborne alert for its B-52 heavy bombers before the Presidential announcement. B-52's began 24-hour flights, and before each crew landed, another B-52 crew was airborne to take its place. At the same time the airborne alert was in operation, the remaining SAC bombers were on upgraded ground alert, ready to take off, combat ready, within 15 minutes from scramble notice.

The SAC bomber alert measure required some 20,000 officers and airmen in combat crews to remain at their alert stations for a period of four weeks without let-up.

SAC intercontinental ballistic missile crews, also, including the armament and maintenance men, upgraded individual missile alerts to a maximum and required work schedules of more than 70 hours a week for all personnel involved.

In all, the upgraded SAC alerts directly affected 100,000 SAC aircraft and missile maintenance and armament personnel, 20,000 security police and 6,000 refueling specialists.

Airlift

Within 48 hours from notification, MATS airlifted a force of Marines from California to Guantanamo Bay. In all, TAC and MATS troop carrier aircraft moved more than 10,000 personnel and 8,000 tons of cargo to the Southeast and Cuba. MATS' part alone in this operation called for hundreds of transport flights, and immediately after those few days of activity MATS initiated a large scale airlift from Germany to India.

Reserve Call-up

On 12-hour notice some 14,214 Air Force Reserve troop carrier aerial port squadrons, and reserve medical hospital personnel were called to active duty with twin-engine C-119 and C-123 troop carrier aircraft. They have remained at their home bases on standby alert or have flown training missions from the time of the call-up until their release from active duty began on November 23.

Miscellaneous

Tactical Air Command fighters flew more than 400 practice missions against simulated special targets in Florida during the early days of the crisis.

In all, the Air Force has flown some 85,000 hours in direct support of United States operations during the Cuban crisis.

F N D